

Appl. No. 09/900,359

Reply to Office Action of 5/20/2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A wet wipes dispensing system comprising:
a plurality of separably joined wet wipes, the plurality of separably joined wet wipes comprising a lubricant;
a dispenser comprising a sealed chamber, the sealed chamber housing the plurality of separably joined wet wipes therein; and
the dispenser comprising a rigid port surrounding a flexible elastic sealing orifice through which wet wipes from the plurality of separably joined wet wipes can be dispensed from the sealed chamber, the flexible elastic sealing orifice sealing the rigid port and comprising a continuous slit, wherein at least a portion of the lubricant is automatically transferable to the flexible elastic sealing orifice when wet wipes from the plurality of separably joined wet wipes are dispensed from the sealed chamber through the continuous slit whereby a drag relationship between the wet wipes and the flexible elastic sealing orifice is reduced by at least about 20% when compared to wet wipes not containing a lubricant dispensed from the dispenser.
2. (Original) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the lubricant is non-volatile.
3. (Original) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the lubricant adsorbs to the flexible elastic sealing orifice.
4. (Original) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the lubricant is water immiscible.
5. (Original) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of wet wipes comprise a roll of wet wipes.

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6. (Original) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the drag relationship between the wet wipes and the flexible elastic sealing orifice is reduced by at least about 30%.

7. (Original) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the drag relationship between the wet wipes and the flexible elastic sealing orifice is reduced by at least about 40%.

8. (Original) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the drag relationship between the wet wipes and the flexible elastic sealing orifice is reduced by at least about 50%.

9. (Original) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the drag relationship between the wet wipes and the flexible elastic sealing orifice is reduced by at least about 60%.

10. (Currently Amended) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the continuous slit comprises a space no greater than about 3 mm through which the wet wipes are dispensed.

11. (Currently Amended) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the continuous slit comprises a space no greater than about 2 mm through which the wet wipes are dispensed.

12. (Currently Amended) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the continuous slit comprises a space no greater than about 1 mm through which the wet wipes are dispensed.

13. (Currently Amended) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the continuous slit comprises a space no greater than about 0.5 mm through which the wet wipes are dispensed.

14. (Currently Amended) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the continuous slit comprises a space no greater than about 0.25 mm through which the wet wipes are dispensed.

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15. (Previously Presented) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the continuous slit comprises an initial space of about 0 mm which is flexed open to allow the wet wipes to be dispensed.

16. – 39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, or 15 wherein the lubricant comprises silicone.

41. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the continuous slit comprises a first curved portion and a second curved portion.

42. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 41 wherein the first curved portion has a first orientation relative to a longitudinal axis of the continuous slit and the second curved portion has a second orientation relative to the longitudinal axis.

43. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 42 wherein the continuous slit approximates a sine wave.

44. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of wet wipes comprise a stack of wet wipes.

45. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the flexible elastic sealing orifice comprises a rubber-like sheet having a Shore A hardness from about 20 to about 90.

46. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the flexible elastic sealing orifice comprises a rubber-like sheet having a Gurley stiffness from about 200 to about 6500 mgf.

47. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the flexible elastic sealing orifice comprises a rubber-like sheet having a thickness from about 10 mil to about 110 mil.

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48. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the flexible elastic sealing orifice comprises a rubber-like sheet having an elastic modulus between 200 psi and 800 psi.

49. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the flexible elastic sealing orifice comprises a rubber-like sheet having a specific gravity 0.88 to about 1.10.

50. (Withdrawn) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the flexible elastic sealing orifice comprises a rubber-like sheet having compression set about 8/30 to 40/120.

51. (Previously Presented) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the continuous slit comprises a length from about 20% to about 90% of the width of the wet wipes.

52. (Previously Presented) The wet wipes dispensing system of claim 1 wherein the continuous slit comprises a length from about 40% to about 70% of the width of the wet wipes.